

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

ENGLAND.—Wreck of the brig *Gazelle*, Horrible Massacre.—On the 21st of August last year, the brig *Gazelle*, Captain W. T. Parkin, sailed from Sydney, bound to Woodlark Island, having on board a quantity of stores for the missionary station there, and, as passenger, the Rev. Mr. Muraconi, an Italian clergyman, whose intention was to assist in the objects of the mission at that island. Considerable anxiety having been manifested as to the safety of the brig and those on board, and several letters having appeared referring to the subject, in April last the schooner *Favourite* was chartered for the purpose of going in search of the missing vessel. The *Favourite* has returned to Sydney having discovered that the *Gazelle* was a total wreck on the Woodlark Island, and that every soul on board had been murdered by the natives. It will be seen by the sequel that the intelligence gleaned from some of the boys belonging to the Island is, in several cases contradictory, but this may be accounted for in some measure by the difficulty which it is natural to suppose must have existed in either party making himself clearly understood. On the 4th of May last, at noon, in latitude 9 degrees 14 minutes south, and longitude 153 degrees 27 minutes east, Captain Barrack, of the *Favourite*, discovered a wreck apparently a brig, lying on her starboard beam-ends, on Woodlark Island, lower masts and bowsprit standing, lower rigging swinging about, and bearing W. N. W., distant five miles. At two p. m., the schooner got abreast of, and within two miles of her, and found her to be a brig with the stern knocked away, the plank in her bottom gone, and in every respect a total wreck. At 4.30 p. m. Captain Barrack stood in for the harbour, and shortly afterwards hove to for a canoe, which came along side of her with six native boys. The information obtained from them, and subsequently from other of the natives, was noted at length in the *Favourite's* log-book, from which the following extracts are taken:—One of the boys in the canoe came on board, and on being questioned by Mr. Ramondi (a missionary acquainted with some of the South Sea Islands), delivered cards to him, having on one side Mr. W. T. The boys' answer to Mr. Ramondi were for the most part vague and unsatisfactory, and we thought it advisable not to go up the harbour that night but brought to near the entrance, sat a double anchor-watch, and loaded our guns and muskets. The night passed quietly afloat, but large fires were burning on shore which the native boy said indicated that the natives were alarmed lest we were going to destroy the village for plundering the brig. Mr. Marondi's interpretation of this boy's story is in substance as follows:—The brig got on the reef some time in last September. The crew did not land there, but afterwards went away in boats to Cape Dennis; that two white men had been killed at an island called Mad-dan, and he believed the rest were murdered at the island of Javonsee. This story excited our suspicions, and we kept the boy on board. The next morning, at seven o'clock, a canoe came alongside, most of whom had been to Sydney with the missionaries, and whose versions of the loss of the brig and murder of those on board, agreeing as they did, in all the material points, with each other, appear to be as near the real facts of the case as can be obtained. The old men of the village told the boys to ask the captain if he was hungry, and that they wished to trade with him, as they had plenty of yams and figs, and wished us to come near the village with the schooner. Being under the impression that this was a scheme to entice us amongst them, as no other canoe and old men (as is generally the case) came off, we declined to do so. The boy we have brought to Sydney confirmed these suspicions, as, when I mentioned my intention to visit the wreck, and explained that I could discover if the crew were murdered, he, under the influence of a reward, stated that the brig was close to the reef, missed stays, and went ashore; that shortly afterwards, by a plan devised by a chief, eight canoes went off, six men in each, without spears, but the tomahawks concealed, their intention being to murder the whole crew. The natives pretended to be very friendly, and a number of them went on board the brig; in a few minutes one of the natives tomahawked Mr. Muraconi, another immediately afterwards murdered the captain, and killed every soul on board with their tomahawks; they then plundered the vessel of everything that excited their cupidity, leaving the dead bodies on board. The boys belonging to the mission (but who had no share in this horrible act) went on board and threw the corpses into the water. These statements were corroborated by other natives questioned by Mr. Ramondi. Under these circumstances I did not send a boat from the schooner to the wreck, not thinking it would be safe to leave so few hands on board. I then shaped my course off the island.

Miraculous Escape from Disasters at Sea.—The following interesting account of an eventful occurrence at sea, which happened to the Pacific steamship *Santiago*, Commander W. R. Bartlett, has been received in Devonshire, where the family of the Captain resides:—The *Santiago* was a vessel of 1,300 tons, with 150 persons on board, and carrying a valuable cargo, and specie to the amount of 200,000 dollars. Two days after leaving Valparaiso, on the 27th of June, she struck upon a reef

of rocks, known as the Infernal Rocks during a dark and hazy night. The ship was immediately stopped, and backed off the rocks, but, the water having gained upon her forward, it was anticipated every instant that she would go down. The coolness, energy, and judgment of the captain, however (thus writes one of the passengers), appear to have saved the ship, and, after almost incredible exertion, shared in by all on board for two days and nights, she arrived in safety at Callao. During this fearful period the anxiety of all on board may be imagined, the water gaining on them, in spite of the utmost exertions at the pumps. The water-tight compartment alone saved them from destruction, for had the bulkhead forward given way, the fires would have been extinguished, and the engines and pumps stopped, and the vessel must have sunk in half-an-hour. Throughout the whole of this trying scene the captain never quitted the deck, and the officers and crew to a man, are stated to have behaved with the most exemplary fortitude and untiring zeal. Owing to these exertions in circumstances of such distressing difficulty, no life was sacrificed, and the valuable cargo was preserved. After landing his charges the captain's next effort was to save the noble ship.—In consequence of there being no dry rocks at Callao, or any place to receive her, he was advised to run her on shore, which if he had done, she would at once have been a total loss. He remained steaming along the Bay of Callao for two days, expecting her to sink every moment. However, at length finding a suitable spot, he ran her on shore on a sandy beach. He dived under the ship, and found she had ten large holes in her bottom. He set his crew to work, and stopped them on the inside, and the next morning, to the surprise of every one, succeeded in floating her off, went to Callao and took in 246 tons of coals. While here, General Castilla, the President of Peru, went on board the vessel to see the captain, and told him that he had lost a ship of war, and every soul on board on the same rocks on which the *Santiago* struck, and for Mr. Bartlett to save his passengers, cargo, and ship was quite miraculous, and was a proof of his perseverance and skill. The next morning the *Santiago* started for Taboga, a distance of 1,500 miles, where the Pacific Steam Navigation Company have a factory for repairing the ships. The people at Callao thought the captain had lost his senses; but his efforts were blessed with success,—he arrived in safety at Taboga. During four days and nights he never left the deck. On his arrival at Taboga, men were put to work immediately, and in twenty-two days she was ready for sea again, having travelled 2,000 miles on the ocean in such a state as a ship never was known to be.

FRANCE.—Distrust of the Napoleon Dynasty.—The Daily News has the following remarks on the scarcity of precious metal in France, and the dissipated state of the public securities:—Throughout France the feeling is probably universal that the internal tranquility of the empire, and consequently the market value of investments of every description, hangs solely on the life of the Emperor. There is no real and thorough belief in his dynasty, as represented either by his infant son or his collateral. His death, it is admitted on all hands, would be the signal for a general crash. This subject is tabooed throughout France; no one speaks publicly of his apprehensions, but the impression is universal that the present state of things cannot long continue. While commerce is active and flourishing, men pass lightly over these things, but when every day adds to the monetary pressure, when the daily wants of every individual become more difficult to supply, a growing feeling of uneasiness manifests itself, as now—a feeling aggravated by the discontent forced upon men's minds on finding that all the vaunted prosperity was fictitious, that the magnificent undertakings, public and private, were beyond the powers of the community, and that in order to give *éclat* to the advent of the second empire a burden has been laid on all France which it will take many years of successful and peaceful labour even to lighten. There is, however, one peril in our eyes greater than all, namely, a deluge of paper money more or less national, which is a favourite hobby with one class of French financiers.

Alleged projected Assassination of Louis Napoleon.—The Times Paris Correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—There was an unusual stir last night at the Prefecture of Police and at the prison of Mazas, owing to the arrest of about thirty persons belonging to a secret society. This society, composed of revolutionists of the most violent and dangerous kind, held a meeting yesterday, at which it was decided to assassinate the Emperor on his return from Biarritz. I understand that the police know all the members of this society, most of whom are old members of the Marianne, inhabiting the 6th, 7th, and 8th, arrondissements of Paris. The majority of them are artisans. Several of those arrested are very young, and appear intelligent and not uneducated. They have been placed in solitary confinement at Mazas, and are allowed to communicate with no one. The search made at their residences has brought to light nothing that compromises them, but the police are prepared to prove the existence of the society, and to bring forward witnesses of its frequent meetings. This confirms the evidence, already pretty positive, contained in the details I sent you concerning the Marianne, as to the existence of a secret society, whose members are sworn to attempt the life of the Emperor. Fortunately the police are vigilant

and sharp-sighted, and history is there to show us how rarely such attempts succeed. It is, doubtless, very difficult to form a society of this kind, into which some agent of the authorities does not find means to insinuate himself, and even when that is not the case, at the last moment it is rare that all the conspirators preserve their firmness of purpose and of nerve. I am assured that the French Government has given an order, dating from the 1st instant, prohibiting any further transportations to Cayenne.

SPAIN.—Liberty of the Press.—The Espana says:—“Our provincial edition of yesterday was seized by order of the Civil Governor, and we were obliged to prepare in all haste another edition, in which we omitted a paragraph vindicating the Duke of Valencia against the accusations directed against him in an anonymous letter *Loja*, published in the *Nacion* of yesterday. The attack, repeated to-day in the *Iberia*, has been more fortunate than the defence.” The Espana announces that on the 31st ult., the *Espana*, the *Leon Espanol*, *Los Novades*, *La Iberia*, *La Association*, and *La Discussion*, were seized by the government.—The editor of the democrat journal, *La Association* says:—“We are at a loss to know how and what to write. We were very often tempted to lay down our pens, but were deterred from doing so by the hope that the government, considering the tranquility now enjoyed by the country and the peaceable attitude of all parties, would shortly raise the stage of seige, and thereby restore to the press the liberty of action and the privileges secured to it by the existing laws.”

INDIA.—Negotiation has been in progress which I promise to eventuate in a treaty of peace, with Steadt Khan and the Momund chiefs, hitherto the main disturbers of the peace North Western Punjab frontier. The hill men have so invariably got the worst of it in all their forays, that finding even the wildness of their fastnesses no protection against our mountain guns, they seem making a virtue of necessity by coming to terms when they can no longer hold out. We shall be thankful for peace on our borders at any reasonable price—along the highland line property must always be insecure, and the utmost that can be looked for (but this is much)—is immunity from the forays of large bands of armed men. We have now received full particulars as to the assassination of the heir apparent of Ava, while residing under British protection at Rangoon.—He had in childhood narrowly escaped murder in his own country, when his father's life was taken. When he took possession of Pegu, he sought refuge from danger in our territories; his death seemed to have been desired by the ruling powers and assassins were employed accordingly to destroy him. The result is not at all unlikely to be another advance on Ava and a further change of dynasty—so impossible it is for barbarism and civilization to flourish side by side. The question touching the military occupation of British Burmah by Madras troops has long been under the consideration of the supreme Government, and the Governor-General has now resolved upon withdrawing the whole of the Bengal troops and establishments serving in the province of Pegu. This will involve he return to Bengal of all the staff officers and establishments appertaining to that presidency, and their places will no doubt be filled up by officers from Madras. The transfer is to be effected in the ensuing season, or as soon as sufficient steam conveyance can be made available. In these two items is comprised the whole of the tidings of the fortnight. India everywhere is tranquil. Oude is perfectly tranquil and the supreme Government has, on the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner, authorised the military force in the province, as at present constituted, to be broken up, and the troops and batteries composing it to be withdrawn and ordered back to the several stations from whence they proceeded there, and has directed that functionary in communication with his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to organise a new force on a limited scale, and on the principle observed in the Punjab, moveable columns are to be maintained at the stations of Lucknow, Seetapore, Fyzabad, in the same manner as they are done at present at Mooltan, Rawul Pindee, and Sealkote. They are to be kept fully equipped in respect of ammunition, carriage and establishments, so as to be ready to take the field at a moment's notice.

Latest by Steamship *Persia* at New York.—She arrived at New York at half-past 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning, with 200 passengers, and reports that the *Cambria* arrived out on the 4th; also the *Arabia*; and the *Fulton* at Southampton on the 3d.

Respecting Naples, the only information comes from the Brussels Nord, which says the Austrian ministers at Paris and London have urgent orders from their government to entreat France and England to abstain from any demonstration, at least until the return of Gen. Martini's mediatorial mission to Naples. Further it is said, the Western powers in consideration for Austria, assent. No new facts respecting the Belgrade boundary. A royal decree removes the confiscation from Queen Christina's property in Spain. There are rumours of the increase of Austrian and French troops in Italy. The ministerial crisis continues in Denmark. A Diplomatic circular signed Nesselrode, has been sent to all the courts of Europe, setting forth what is to be the foreign policy of the Russian government. Some of the British

journals interpret it as, in effect, a challenge to England and France, for it says, in substance, that if the Western powers attempt to coerce the King of Naples into the adoption of reforms necessary to prevent an outbreak in Italy, or in other words, a general convulsion throughout Europe, Russia will espouse the cause of King Bomba, on the principle that he is doing what he likes with his own. The spirit of this manifesto gives colour to the belief which prevails, that Russia will send her fleet for this purpose to the Bay of Naples, to oppose those of England and France, and a collision may arise, the consequences of which cannot well be over-estimated. The circular is addressed to all Russian representatives abroad. It was read by Baron Brunow to the French minister of foreign affairs, but was not otherwise officially communicated to that government. A distinction is thus sought to be established between a simple despatch sent to a diplomatic agent, and a formal notification directly addressed to the government. The real question is, however, whether the circle itself is, or is not, a correct exponent of the policy of Russia.—The text of this manifesto is neither more nor less than a solemn declaration, “haughty in tone and defiant in language,” of the part Russia intends to assume in the political transactions of Europe, and a denunciation but thinly veiled under stately courtesies of diplomatic style, against the interference of the two great powers in Naples, and the continued occupation of Greece. The manifesto contains doctrines of 1856, which are but the echo of the Holy Alliance of 1821, but the madness of the present tyranny is unbearable, and the western powers will be forever disgraced if they suffer themselves to be disgraced from this great and mighty writ, *de lunatico inveniundo*, by the miserable fictions of the Holy Alliance and the haughty menaces of the Czar.

The accounts from Paris are still discouraging. The stock of bullion in the Bank of France is said to be daily decreasing, and a number of groundless reports prophecy an early decree for the suspension of specie payments, or for the prohibition of the exports of silver.

According to the Times' correspondence, the Bank of Vienna has accumulated \$20,000,000 in silver in its vaults, most of it having been drawn from France.

The principle subjects of interest are three, viz: The demonstration against Naples; the Belgrade boundary; and the right of possession of the Isle of Serpents.

German papers assert that Britain has addressed a second note to Russia on the subject of the Isle of Serpents, more peremptory than the first. The result is unknown. Britain has proposed as a plan of adjustment of the Montenegrin difficulty, that Turkey cede an extension of boundary to Montenegro, and that Montenegro acknowledge the sovereignty of the Porte.

Napoleon has returned to Paris. There are rumours of the increase of Austrian and French troops in Italy.

Marshal Brandon has left Algiers to assume the command of expedition against Kabyles. Generals Yuseef and Kenard are acting against the insurgent districts which are expected speedily to make submission.

SWITZERLAND.—A letter from Berlin of the 26th ult., says:—We learn that the reptiles of all the powers which signed the protocol of London of 1852, to the dispatch of the cabinet of Berlin, relative to the affair of Neuchâtel, have been received, with the exception of that of the Russian government.

According to what has transpired of these reptiles, a general conviction is felt of the necessity of settling the question, and it is believed that negotiations to that effect will be offered at the next meeting of the conference of Paris.

AUSTRIA.—All information to hand confirms the supposition that the Austrians will not evacuate the Danubian Principalities, until the question of the Bessarabian frontier be definitely settled. Austria has 14,000 men in Wallachia and Moldavia, and is making Commissariat contracts for their prolonged stay.

It is reported that a considerable increase of Austrian force in the Roman legations is to take place immediately, in consequence of the recent additions to the French force in Rome.

WEST INDIES.

The General Election was over at Barbadoes, and the new Assembly had met for the dispatch of business. Governor-General Hincks delivered a speech on the occasion of a sound, practical character. Amongst other useful measures His Excellency points to the establishment of some such institution as ‘Ragged Schools’ for the reclamation of ‘unfortunate children who may either have been already convicted of crime or may be exposed to temptation from neglect.’ The incorporation of the city of Bridgetown; the abundance of the last crop, and the good promise of the growing one; the satisfactory state of the public revenue; are also adverted to by Governor Hincks.

Antigua dates of the 22nd ult., speaks of the fine weather for the prosecution of agricultural work. The Attorney-General of Grenada, Mr Snagg had been appointed to succeed Sir R. Horsford in the Chief-Justiceship of Antigua—much to the disappointment (as it appears) of the present Attorney-General of Antigua.

Turk's Islands dates are to the 25th August. The Islanders were rejoicing over an abundant salt crop—there being about 350,000 thousand bushels on hand, with a good demand, and prices firm at 16 cents a bushel.

The cholera still lurked at St. Thomas, but the daily mortality from it was small.